Fourteenth International HIV-AIDS Conference

1945. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high power delegation of Government attended the 14th International HIV-AIDS Conference held in Spain recently;

(b) if so, the details of members of the delegation; and

(c) what was the country's proposal to fight AIDS in the Conference and to what extent the country benefited from the deliberations of the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A high power delegation was led by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Shatrughan Sinha. Other members of the delegation were Director General Health Services, Dr. S.P. Agarwal; Additional Secretary and Project Director, National AIDS Control Organization, Smt. Meenakshi Datta Ghosh and Joint Secretary from the Office of Prime Minister Shri Chattar Singh.

(c) Government of India highlighted the various aspects of the National AIDS Control Programme touching upon the following issues:

(a) Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counselling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections etc.;

(b) Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaigns, provision of voluntary testing and counselling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure;

(c) Upscaling of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Programme;

(d) Care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS including treatment of opportunistic infections; and

(e) Inter-sectoral collaboration among public, private & NGO sectors.

Based on discussions with experts at conference, the following lessons were learnt:

(i) India needs a much higher commitment of resources to upscale and extend outreach and coverage of its targeted interventions for prevention and care to persons infected with HIV/AIDS;

(ii) India needs to articulate clearly its stand on what will constitute care and support for persons affected with HIV/AIDS;

(iii) India needs to examine the availability and costing of generic drugs indigenously produced, and may initiate a dialogue with the pharmaceutical industry; and

(iv) Effective efforts for prevention need to be put in place, that will combine education, information and delivery of services to bring about behavioural change.

Rise in injecting drug users

1946. SHRI M.A. KADAR:
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a rapid assessment survey in the cities across the country, Delhi and Chennai are witnessing rapid rise in injecting drug users getting infected by AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures to be adopted by Government for reducing such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) National AIDS Control Organisation conducts annual rounds of HIV Sentinel Surveillance during